

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 27, with the following paragraph:

In an attempt to contain and remove emboli and other debris, balloon angioplasty coupled with irrigation and aspiration has been performed as illustrated by U.S. Patent No. ~~5,883,644~~ and 5,833,644 and International Publication No. WO 98/39046 to Zadno-Azizi et al. This procedure requires complete vessel occlusion cutting off all blood flow which imposes severe time constraints on the procedure. Additionally, the balloons involved in the procedure are affixed to elongate guidewires or small elongate catheters which extend for a substantial distance through blood vessels to the location of the stenosis or occlusion, and it is practically impossible to prevent some back and forth longitudinal motion of these elongate elements within a vessel during a procedure. This movement of the guidewire or catheter to which a balloon is attached causes the balloon to move back and forth and abrade emboli from the vessel wall downstream of the balloon containment area.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, with the following paragraph:

Angioplasty is often not a preferred treatment for lesions in the carotid artery because dislodged plaque can enter arterial vessels of the brain causing brain damage or even death. As indicated by U.S. Patent No. ~~5,879,367~~ 5,876,367 to Kaganov et al., carotid endarterectomy is a surgical procedure used to remove a lesion in the carotid artery, but this procedure also involves substantial risk of dislodged embolic material.